

Sharjah ruler names cousin as deputy

SHARJAH (AP) — The ruler of this southern Gulf emirate, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, issued a decree Saturday appointing his cousin, Sheikh Ahmed, as his deputy. Sheikh Ahmed is already chairman of the oil department, which is the revenue-generating department of Sharjah. The decree did not refer to Sultan's older brother, Sheikh Ahmed Al Zaid, who three years ago attempted to topple him. After the intervention of the rulers of the rest of the neighboring emirates, Sultan kept on his brother as crown prince but Ahmed Al Zaid was removed from public and political scene shortly afterward. This February, Sultan issued a decree abolishing the one he had enacted in June 1987 to nominate his brother as crown prince. There had been speculation that Ahmed Al Zaid might still be nominated in view of the need for a second in command in the emirate, but Sultan has now closed the door by choosing his cousin as deputy. But diplomats noted that he did not directly name him as crown prince. Ahmed Al Zaid has been residing for quite a while in the Al 'Ain suburb of Abu Dhabi, in a place said to have been offered to him as part of the mediation efforts between the two brothers by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan.

Cyprus president begins Syria visit

DAMASCUS (R) — Cyprus President George Vassilios arrived in Damascus Saturday for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, pledging that the island would not become a transit point for Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel. Vassilios, on his first visit to Syria since becoming president two years ago, was greeted at the airport by the Syrian leader. The Greek-Cypriot president said in an interview published by Syrian newspapers Saturday that his visit was aimed at promoting bilateral cooperation in all fields. Vassilios denied reports that Cyprus was being used as a transit point for Soviet Jewish immigrants heading for Israel. "My government... affirmed that Cyprus was not used as a transit point for Soviet Jewish settlers to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. I repeat we will not allow the use of Cyprus for this purpose," he said. Vassilios thanked Syria for its "principled stand" towards the Cyprus problem. The island has been divided into Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot sectors since 1974 when Turkey invaded the north following a short-lived coup in Nicosia orchestrated by the junta then ruling in Athens.

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Libya reports failure of bids to mend U.S. ties

ABU DHABI (AP) — Libyan Foreign Minister Jadullah Azouz Al Talhi reported Saturday the failure of mediation bids by Egypt and Morocco to improve relations between Tripoli and the United States. "This mediation was fruitless despite the interest shown in it by several Arab states," Talhi told the United Arab Emirates state-run newspaper Al Ittihad. "No development was achieved because of the American allegations regarding some issues related to terrorism," he said in reference to U.S. charges of terrorism practices by Libya. Talhi said both the United States and Israel were planning to attack his country, because of claims that it was producing chemical weapons.

Ex-KGB chief stripped of honours

MOSCOW (AP) — A former KGB counterintelligence chief who complained that the spy agency had too much power has been stripped of his military rank and decorations by President Mikhail Gorbachev, TASS said Saturday. Oleg Kalugin, who held the rank of major-general and was a top spy in the United States during the 1960s, said two weeks ago that he was wounded out of the KGB because of his reformist political views. He gave interviews to foreign and Soviet journalists and appeared on Soviet television, saying that the KGB had too much power and should be disbanded. "By decision of the president of the USSR, at the request of the KGB, Oleg Kalugin was deprived of all state decorations for actions compromising the honour and dignity of the state security organs," the state news agency said.

700,000 Kuwaiti residents flee heat

KUWAIT (R) — About 700,000 Kuwaitis and expatriates — 36 per cent of the population — are expected to leave Kuwait to escape the Gulf's scorching summer heat. Aviation official say 506,779 passengers are booked out on scheduled flights and 86,000 on extra flights, the newspaper Al Siyasseh reported Saturday. Summer temperatures in Kuwait reach 50 Centigrade (above 120 Fahrenheit).

Sudan rebels say they destroyed military convoy

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Saturday they had destroyed a big military convoy sent to relieve troops at Yei, a town near the Zaire border that has been under siege since January. The clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored in Nairobi, warned that similar attempts to send convoys from the town of Maridi or the regional capital Juba "will be crushed." The broadcast said SPLA forces ambushed the convoy on Tuesday on the road from Maridi to Yei, a town 160 kilometres to the southeast, killing at least 28 soldiers and destroying many vehicles.

Algerian women to open 'black book'

ALGIERS (R) — Fourteen Algerian women's associations, anxious about the consequences of the Islamic fundamentalist victory in June 12 local elections, have decided to open a "black book" recording violations of women's rights. The associations met in the town of Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers, Friday to coordinate their activities, the official news agency APS said Saturday. The main concern was to work together with other democratic movements to counter "the retrograde tendency," it added. The women discussed the problems of access to the media, discrimination against them in the electoral system and education for girls, it said. They criticised a decision to close Ben Aknoun teacher training college in Algiers, which is the only institute in the country specifically to train teachers for girls.

Abdul Meguid: U.S. keen to resume dialogue with PLO

ROME (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday at the end of a visit to Italy he believed the United States was keen to resume its contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) suspended 10 days ago.

"I noted in Washington a willingness to continue the process of peace and to resume dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation on certain conditions," Abdul Meguid told reporters.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dispatched his foreign minister to Washington less than a week after Bush suspended diplomatic contacts with the PLO June 20 because of its refusal to condemn a guerrilla raid on Israel.

"The refusal to condemn violence is a matter that the PLO must discuss and on which it must come to a decision," Abdul Meguid said after two days of talks with Italy's leaders.

"In the coming weeks, together with the PLO and other Arab States, we will prepare a plan of action to ensure dialogue is resumed."

He said his talks with Italian leaders had left him optimistic there would be strong pressure from the European Community for a resumption of the Middle East peace process.

"I am certain that in the coming weeks and months Italy will be active on the international scene, particularly in Europe and the Mediterranean," he said.

On Sunday Italy takes over the community's rotating presidency from Ireland.

Before he left, Abdul Meguid went to the Vatican to pay Pope John Paul a courtesy visit.

Italy recently proposed that the EC try to relaunch the Middle East peace process.

The soldiers shouted orders through megaphones for all village men to gather at a schoolyard, the reports added.

Abdul Meguid said his talks with such government leaders as Premier Giulio Andreotti and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis were "encouraging."

Following his meeting Saturday with Abdul Meguid, de Michelis said he was optimistic that the U.S.-PLO dialogue would resume.



Palestinian boys hurl stones at Israeli soldiers in Arab Jerusalem

Israeli soldiers raid villages, arrest dozens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops backed by helicopters raided two villages in the occupied West Bank and detained dozens of Palestinians, the army and Israel Radio said Saturday.

The radio said troops also confiscated "cold weapons," which usually means knives, and paramilitary uniforms, during the weekend operation.

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other things of conducting violence and causing disturbances," were detained, an army communiqué said, without elaborating.

According to reports, soldiers also clamped three-hour curfews on Tulkarm and Jenin Saturday, and also in the village of Burin where officers went house-to-house to collect taxes.

Also Saturday, the army said a Palestinian detainee in the Kerem Shalom desert prison camp in southern Israel was found slain and that a fellow Arab prisoner had confessed to the killing.

The victim was identified as Ibrahim Mahmoud Boutbou, 30, before he was killed in the Gaza Strip, and the suspected assailant was Adel Mahmoud Mohammad Najar, 29, of Bani Suhaila in Gaza.

The motive for the slaying was not clear, an army official said. Since the start of the 30-month Palestinian uprising against Israel 227 Arabs have been slain by unknown assailants as alleged collaborators with Israel.

The last suspected collaborator killed was a 39-year-old man from Arab Jerusalem found strangled to death in his cell in the Shatta

prison in southern Israel Friday.

The army has jailed a soldier for 21 days for spray-painting offensive slogans in Arabic on a mosque in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, an army spokesman said Saturday.

Nablus residents said soldiers painted the slogans on a mosque door after finding a spray-paint cache used by activists in the uprising.

On Friday, uniformed Palestinian youths waving knives marched through Nablus, led by an activist with a gun, witnesses said. The open display of weapons was unusual even in Nablus, where the uprising is strong.

In Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, a 12-year-old boy was killed by an electric shock while trying to drape a Palestinian flag over an electrical wire, reports said.

The march through the centre of Nablus was staged as a demonstration of strength by a faction of uprising leaders and involved about 18 youths dressed in black and khaki uniforms, witnesses said.

Also in Nablus, soldiers shot and wounded two protesters with plastic and rubber bullets.

Assad pledges full support for Lebanese peace efforts

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad pledged full backing for efforts to end Lebanon's civil war in talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who is spearheading a drive for peace.

"President Assad reiterated Syria's... readiness to extend every possible support to make the national reconciliation process in Lebanon a success," officials Saturday quoted Assad as telling Prince Saud in Damascus.

Prince Saud represents an Arab committee trying to reconcile Lebanese Christian leader General Michel Aoun and Lebanon's Syrian-backed, internationally-recognised President Elias Hrawi.

The prince flew back to Saudi Arabia late Friday.

Rival Christian forces skirmished in east Beirut overnight Saturday and Aoun said he was determined to die fighting for a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Police said a civilian man was wounded during gunbattles in the district of Ashrafieh, a stronghold for Aoun's opponents — the Lebanese Forces militia headed by Samir Geagea.

That raised the overall toll to 1,044 killed and 2,791 wounded since the inconclusive power struggle for control of the Christian enclave broke out Jan. 30.

A ceasefire brokered by the Vatican has been generally holding in the 800-square-kilometre disrupted enclave since May 17. However, a political settlement to the Aoun-Geagea conflict remains remote.

More than 1,000 people have been killed since the sporadic inter-Christian battles erupted in January.

Aoun, in an interview with the newspaper Al Liwaa, denied new press reports that he considered stepping down.

With contributions, the dinner was expected to raise \$1.2 million to bring the total of donations to Mandela's cause for the day to \$2 million.

Mandela, looking tired, said Hollywood had tended to stereotype the lives of the people of South Africa.

"I remember seeing 'Tarzan' and being disturbed by this one-dimensional portrayal," he said. "Fortunately, over the last few years, a few films have started to address this feeling."

In the Memorial Coliseum, scene of the 1984 Olympic Games, Mandela declared: "Apartheid is crumbling, on the brink of its death."

"We are determined as much as you are to keep the pressure on the apartheid system," he told the crowd who had paid \$10 each to attend the rally.

Adding to the dramatic effect of the evening, Mandela stood before a rostrum on an almost empty stage as his wife, Winnie, who was dressed in African costume sat silently by his side.

"We seek a victory in which there will be neither victors nor vanquished," he declared. "We went to prison for so long but never gave up hope. It is our common responsibility to never give up hope."

The South African defence minister meanwhile denounced Mandela Saturday for touring the world instead of helping end violence in South Africa.

Both sides are charging off in opposite directions and Gorbachev would risk losing them both.

He could step firmly in either direction, which would virtually guarantee that he would lose part of the Communist Party in a bid to save the rest of it.

The last congress was in early 1986. The 28th gathering was moved up almost a year to give Gorbachev a chance to overhaul the Central Committee and push more reforms.

The new date was set when the Soviet leader had the initiative. But in the month that followed,

Two million begin Haj

MECCA (Agencies) — Chanting "Labbaikullahu Laabik," a traditional incantation affirming response to God's call, some two million Muslims mounted the plains of Mina Saturday to prepare for the climax of the annual pilgrimage or Haj to Islam's holiest shrines.

Shortly after dawn prayers in Mecca, site of the Kaaba to which Muslims all over the world turn in prayer five times a day, the white-dressed pilgrims began the ascent by car or foot to Mina, a hilly spot about five kilometres from Mecca.

Men wear seamless garments while the women don floor-length white gowns and headscarves. The ascent continues throughout the day in what may be the world's largest traffic jam. But Saudi authorities, who have been funneling billions of dollars over the recent years to modernise and expand roads, overhead bridges and tunnels, reported a smooth operation.

Shades awnings were also constructed so that pedestrians will not be subjected to sunstroke, in heat that was recorded at 45 degrees Centigrade or 113 Fahrenheit.

Official statistics released on the occasion also recorded that the number of Muslims who came to the Haj this year was 827,236. These converge on the kingdom by

land, sea and air from all over the world weeks ahead of the Haj's culminating rituals.

They are joined by at least one million from inside the kingdom, an estimated half of which are either Saudis or expatriate residents also performing the Haj, and the other half who come for the mammoth servicing tasks.

Thousands of officials have been deployed for the Haj, boycotted by Iran for the third year in protest at a quota on pilgrims and ban on political demonstrations.

Strict security has been in force since 1987 when about 400 people, mainly Iranians, died in clashes with security forces who moved in to break up political demonstrations.

One pilgrim was killed and 16 wounded last year when bombs exploded near the Mecca shrines. Saudi Arabia beheaded 16 Kuwaitis, including 10 of Iranian origin, after finding them guilty of planting the bombs.

Iran wants to send 150,000 pilgrims rather than the 45,000 allowed under the quota introduced after 1987. Talks this month failed to resolve differences and Iran resumed its attack on Saudi leaders.

Every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to must perform the Haj at least once. Saudi Arabia has said it will foot the bill for more than 1,500 Soviet Muslims expected to attend.

Israel hopes for new formula from contacts with Washington

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders appear to be counting on success in producing a new formula to advance their version of a settlement to the Palestinian problem after an exchange of letters between U.S. President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

While Shamir said Friday night that his letter to Bush in reply to a Washington peace plan could lead to a new approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bush voiced the concern over the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts.

Nablus residents said soldiers painted the slogans on a mosque door after finding a spray-paint cache used by activists in the uprising.

On Friday, uniformed Palestinian youths waving knives marched through the centre of Nablus as a demonstration of strength by a faction of uprising leaders and involved about 18 youths dressed in black and khaki uniforms, witnesses said.

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"We're not going to sit here and do nothing," Bush told a Washington press conference.

Washington will persist in its efforts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue even if they get "totally stiff-armed," he said.

According to Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner, the prime minister "expressed his hope that his letter to President Bush and the forthcoming answers from Washington will open a new and promising chapter in the peace process in the Middle East."

"He (Shamir) said that there is enough room to reach an agreement with the United States on a common approach for the continuation of the peace process," Pazner told reporters Friday night.

According to a report in the Jerusalem Post, Bush's letter to Shamir, dated two weeks ago, said that the U.S. will publicly oppose Israel, even at the U.N., if the Jewish state does not halt expansion of existing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

One Israeli official said Shamir's letter rejected a key element of the U.S. plan — the inclusion of deportees and Jerusalem residents on the Palestinian delegation — but Pazner and Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Sudan leader promises federal system in a year

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military ruler promised Saturday to establish a federal system within a year in an apparent effort to solve the problem of implementing Sharia, or Islamic Law.

Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir spoke at a mass rally marking the first anniversary of his seizure of power in a bloodless military coup.

Uganda President Yoweri Museveni, who arrived Friday on a three-day official visit, attended the rally, which was highlighted by military and civilian parades.

A national conference held last year to discuss ways of ending a 7-year-old civil war in the south recommended a federal system of government in which each of Sudan's nine provinces would be free to embrace Islamic Law. Bashir's ruling 15-officer junta endorsed the recommendation.

Bashir said the second year of his rule "will witness the application of the federal system in the country." He did not elaborate and made no specific mention of Islamic Law.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by turncoat army Col. John Garang, launched the southern rebellion against the Khartoum government in the spring of 1983. The rebels demanded greater autonomy and a better economic deal for the three southern provinces of Equatoria, Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile.

The imposition of Islamic Law nationwide in September 1983 by then President Jaafar Numeiri added fuel to the rebellion. The southern provinces are inhabited mostly by Christians or animists of African origin. Muslims of Arab descent live in the north and dominate the Khartoum government.

The 14-century-old Sharia Law includes a harsh penal code that decrees limb amputations for theft and death for adultery. Several dozen convicted thieves lost limbs under Numeiri.

Islamic Law has been shelved since Numeiri's overthrow by the military in 1985. But it remains on the books and the southern rebels persistently have demanded that it be scrapped as one of their conditions for a negotiated settlement.

The federal system is seen as a compromise enabling the southern provinces to drop Islamic Law if they wished. But this is strongly opposed by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, an ardent proponent of Sharia.

Bashir disbanded the Brotherhood along with all other political parties as well as trade unions immediately after his coup. But the Brotherhood has strong popular following and there was evidence of this at Saturday's celebration.

Thousands of civilians marching past the grandstand, where Bashir sat with his Ugandan guest, chanted "Sharia, Sharia, O Bashir" and "Sharia, Sharia now." They carried banners with slogans making the same demand.

A year after taking power, Sudan's ruling junta is making some progress in resolving the country's economic woes but has failed to end the civil war and stands accused of abusing human rights.

The severe military discipline that Bashir has used to wipe out a rampant black market and control drug smuggling has been successful.

But the same harsh tactics have been used against critics of the new military government.

Hundreds of government opponents have been arrested and more than 60 tortured since the coup on June 30, 1989.

Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz will meet

of the 15-man ruling Military Council.

"We know that hardships remain and that there are shortages in certain commodities, but we are convinced that a bright future lies ahead," he added.

After seeing a handful of convicted foreign currency smugglers and drug traffickers executed under new, harsh military laws, many Sudanese appear to have been cowed.

Political parties and trade unions were banned immediately after the coup. Parliament was dissolved, and a promised new system for Sudanese to participate in decision-making has not materialized.

The government executed 28 active and retired army officers by firing squad after a summary court-martial found them guilty of attempting a coup against Bashir last April.

In addition to the 28 active and retired officers executed, 16 officers received prison terms of up to life and another 13 officers were cashiered for opposing Bashir. But the government gave few details of their alleged activities.

Dissenting politicians and intellectuals, who would not have hesitated to be quoted by name under the ousted civilian government of Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi, now refuse to have their names published for fear of government reprisals.

Severe shortages of many basic commodities continue to plague the people. Bashir's government has warned Sudan's 20 million inhabitants that there are more hardships to be borne before the situation gets better.

During June, the government announced price increases of up to 50 per cent for commodities like gasoline, tea and cigarettes.

This was part of a three-year reform plan to end the budget deficit and adopt market economy.

"One ounce of sugar daily for the individual is not sufficient even if it is regular. We wish the government would reconsider the quotas," one housewife said.

"There is no sweet without fire and no honey without the sting of the bee," said Col. Suliman Mohammad Suliman, a member

Algerian trade unions declare independence

ALGIERS (R) — A congress of the Algerian trade union movement proclaimed the union's independence from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party and voted all the old leadership out of office Friday.

Abdelhak Ibra Hammouda, a 44-year-old teacher and independent leader from Constantine in the east, replaced Taieb Belakhdar, member of the FLN Central Committee, as secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA).

The congress, the UGTA's first since Algeria embarked on the Arab World's most daring democratic experiment, filled the other 10 seats on the national secretariat with reformist newcomers.

Throughout Algeria's independent history the UGTA has been an adjunct of the FLN, which monopolized all political power

until the democratic reforms began to take effect last year.

A new constitution adopted by referendum in February 1989 guaranteed freedom of expression and assembly and the right to form political parties.

By the end of last year, 12 opposition parties had been legalized ranging from Communists to Islamic fundamentalists.

The delegates welcomed the election of Ben Hammouda, the only outgoing leader who offered to vacate his post, with cries of "renewal, renewal."

Ibra Hammouda pledged at the closing session the future UGTA would be "a representative, democratic, united and strong organisation which can stand up to those who try to damage the interests and acquired rights of the workers."

Velayati leaves for Gulf peace talks

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran Saturday for United Nations-sponsored talks in Cyprus about a Gulf war peace settlement.

Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz will meet

Arafat sought to be heard at Dublin Summit

MADRID (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat requested he be received by the 12 leaders of the European Community (EC) at their recent summit but was rebuffed over concerns the United States might see acceptance as a diplomatic slight, the newspaper *El País* reported Saturday.

In a story by its diplomatic correspondent, the paper said Arafat sought to be heard at the Dublin, Ireland, EC summit on June 25-26, a week after the United States suspended an 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The U.S. suspension was to remain in place until the PLO condemned a failed raid on an Israeli beach.

On June 22, Arafat sides-transmitted the request by making contact with the Italian embassy in Tunis, where the PLO has its headquarters, the paper said.

The Palestinian aides led the

Italians to understand that in return for acceptance of the meeting at the EC Dublin summit, Arafat would repeat his condemnation of the use of violence and publicly distance himself from PLO radical Abu Abbas.

Abu Abbas' followers carried out the May 30 attack on an Israeli beach near Tel Aviv broken up by Israeli forces who killed four of the guerrillas and captured 12 others.

The society has said the quake last Thursday, measured between 7.3 and 7.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale, killed at least 40,000 and injured 60,000.

Dastjerdi said with winter approaching in five months, 80,000 prefabricated houses would be needed for temporary homes.

The provincial welfare organi-

zation has taken 6,000 families, numbering 13,000 people, into its care because the breadwinner was killed in the earthquake, IRNA said.

The Agriculture Ministry said

90 per cent of the famous rice



With bare hands Iranian rescue workers and volunteers try to clear rubble in the northwest Iranian town of Rudbar.

Iran appeals for tents, prefabricated housing

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Authori-

ties conducting the rescue opera-

tion in the wake of the devas-

tating earthquake last week issued

an urgent appeal for tents

Saturday.

The appeal came as govern-

ment agencies concentrated on

salvaging farmland and trying to

bring life to normal in the quake-

stricken areas.

Vahid Dastjerdi, head of the

Red Crescent Society, said there

was an urgent need for 50,000

tents in Zanjan and Gilan provi-

nces where hundreds of

thousands of people were left

homeless.

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7.3 and 7.7 on the open-ended

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zation has taken 6,000 families,

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care because the breadwinner was

killed in the earthquake, IRNA said.

The Agriculture Ministry said

90 per cent of the famous rice

fields in the worst hit areas, 200

kilometres northwest of Tehran,

had been saved.

The ministry said the area once

had a livestock population of one

million and efforts were under-

way to collect survivors, bury

carcasses, disinfect the area and

compensate for losses.

The prayer leader of Rudbar,

one of the worst hit areas, ex-

pressed thanks Friday for the

foreign and Iranian aid pouring

into the region and asked that it

continue.

The Iranian national football

team held an exhibition match in

Tehran Friday and raised

\$22,000 for the quake victims'

fund, which now stands at over 21

million, IRNA reported.

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RJ reports increased flights during summer

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) operated 115 additional flights during June to cope with the increasing number of passengers coming to Jordan to spend the summer and the Eid holidays with their families in Jordan. RJ Executive Chairman Hussein Abu Ghazaleh said Saturday in a statement to Petra. Abu Ghazaleh pointed out that the RJ operated such flights to serve the Jordanian expatriates. He said the company hardly makes any profits out of such one-way flights. He said that RJ, in cooperation with the Kuwaiti airline, had agreed to offer more than 30,000 additional seats during the summer season to carry Jordanian expatriates. So far both companies have operated one regular flight every day between Amman and Kuwait.

Abu Ghazaleh said delay in the departure of additional RJ flights is sometimes caused by certain restrictions placed by some Gulf airports on the arrival and departure of additional flights, in addition to the insistence of airports' managements to service additional flights when traffic is not heavy.

RJ has never witnessed heavy traffic similar to the one it has witnessed this season due to the

Police report rise in robberies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday reported a sharp rise in the number of thefts and robberies in the Kingdom in the first five months of 1990, registering 19.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1989.

A PSD statement said a total of 2,261 robberies and thefts occurred in the country between January and May 1990, as compared to 1,891 similar incidents in the same period of 1989.

Of the total number of thefts and robberies, 70 per cent involved minor thefts not exceeding the value of JD 1, reflecting the decline in the seriousness of such crimes.

The statement attributed the increase in the number of thefts

Ministry outlines procedures to collect extra insurance fee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has imposed an extra tax of 10 per cent on all insurance policies except the life insurance and said that the collected amounts will benefit civil defence services in the Kingdom.

A statement issued Saturday by

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharari, Mohammad Asaad and Hani Khanzeh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samaa Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-printed fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

★ Exhibition entitled "Sainte: the French city of art" at the French Cultural Centre.

summer vacations and pilgrimage season, Abu Ghazaleh said.

Departure of regular flights to the Gulf area is scheduled during the night hours and their departure from the Gulf countries is scheduled for the early morning hours to meet the demands of Jordanian and Arab citizens wishing to pursue their flights aboard the RJ, he said.

Abu Ghazaleh said that the RJ operates four flights weekly to North America, including two direct flights to New York and two to Montreal, Canada. He also said that the RJ has operated one additional flight to New York on Thursday's and will continue to do so in July and August, when it is expected to carry some 2,000 additional passengers. He added that the RJ will operate four shipping flights to Europe every week, in a bid to carry 150 tonnes of fruit and vegetables to Europe. For this purpose, the RJ is currently studying the possibility of setting up cool rooms at the airport, capable of accommodating 70 tonnes of vegetables and fruit in case of any unforeseen delay in the departure schedules. He stressed that once the facility is provided, the RJ will commit itself to paying reimbursement for any damage caused by technical faults.

Abu Ghazaleh said delay in the departure of additional RJ flights is sometimes caused by certain restrictions placed by some Gulf airports on the arrival and departure of additional flights, in addition to the insistence of airports' managements to service additional flights when traffic is not heavy.

RJ has never witnessed heavy traffic similar to the one it has witnessed this season due to the

and robberies to the economic crisis in Jordan and to mounting unemployment.

According to the statement, a total of 262 cars were reported stolen in the first five months of 1990 as compared to 176 in the same period of 1989, but most of the cars were retrieved after being reported stolen.

The PSD statement cautioned the public to take extra measures to protect their property against theft. It said that the doors of homes and cars should be firmly closed and checked all the time, beggars should not be allowed into homes and large sums of money should not be kept hidden at home but rather kept in bank to avoid loss.

The statement attributed the increase in the number of thefts

Produce exports expected to reach JD 140 million...

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordanian crops exported to the Gulf countries and Europe in the first five months of 1990 earned the country JD 53 million and all indications point to the fact that national crop exports will reach JD 140 million during 1990, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said Saturday.

"Jordan's crop exports have grown fast from 118,000 tonnes in 1985 to 527,000 in 1989 largely due to the expansion of the Arab markets importing our products," the minister said at the opening of a one-day symposium called to discuss ways by which Jordan can promote exports of its crops to the Gulf states and Europe and improve the means of transportation of these products.

To help the country export, the minister said, more refrigerated trucks have been purchased, raising the number from 100 in 1978 to 1,600 over the past year, the minister said.

"These refrigerated trucks are also used to transport to Jordan imported frozen meat and poultry and other perishable products," the minister added.

According to Arabiyat, Jordan's crop exports to Europe increased noticeably over the past three years reaching 4,400 tonnes in the past agricultural

season, transported mostly by air.

Dr. Arabiyat referred to the obstacles in air transport of agricultural products, due mainly to the lack of refrigerated facilities at the airports and to the lack of a clear programme by the private sector to transport crops by air to the European markets.

The minister announced that the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) is now closely cooperating with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to carry out an agricultural marketing development project designed to boost exports.

The project, he said, entails gathering information about the local produce and cooperation with the private sector.

The minister urged all concerned sectors and transport organisations to cooperate in promoting national crop exports.

According to Abu Ghazaleh, fruit and vegetable exports are likely to increase dramatically during the coming years as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar which makes the Jordanian products more competitive in both the traditional Gulf markets and Europe. A recent study by a fruit and vegetable transportation specialist has uncovered several likely transportation im-

provements which must be introduced in order for Jordan to reduce transport costs, improve transportation services and improve product quality.

The symposium, which was organised by AMO in cooperation with concerned parties was attended by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh who said that if the national carrier is to transport crops to Europe, the exporters should create a unified office or association to supply RJ with information about the volume of the products to be shipped and a regular timetable for shipments.

Abu Ghazaleh also said that exporters and farmers should help shoulder the cost of constructing refrigerated facilities and storage at the Queen Alia International Airport, a project which will be implemented soon.

It is easier for RJ to deal directly with a group or an organisation of farmers and exporters rather than having to do business with individual exporters," Abu Ghazaleh said.

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Mr. President, please stop beating around the bush

FUNNY the way some American minds work; and President George Bush appears to take the cake this time around with his pledge that he would bring about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the basis of a letter he has received from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Of course, one cannot rule out the possibility that Bush is one of those magic wizards who can produce water from an empty bottle (even at that it is a stage illusion). But, as things stand now, the letter of Shamir to Bush resembles a tiny little empty vial and the U.S. president is promising an ocean out of it. For there is nothing in the way of meeting Palestinian aspirations in what the Israeli prime minister has in mind. No independent Palestinian state, no negotiations with the PLO, no peace conference, no withdrawal from the occupied territories, no compromise over Israel's claim to "Judea and Samaria," increased settlements and an iron-fist policy to crush the intifada. To cap everything, Bush has already slammed the door on the U.S.-PLO dialogue, which could have served as some form of conduit to keep the peace process alive.

For all practical purposes, it is evident that neither the U.S. administration nor the hardline government of Shamir have any intention of introducing a feasible formula to advance efforts for just, comprehensive and equitable peace in the Middle East. If anything, the purpose of the so-called exchange of letters is only to pull an American-tailored veil over further stone-walling by Israel.

Come down to earth, Mr. Bush. No matter how eloquently you put it, the fact remains that the U.S. administration cannot possibly hope to build anything from the basic fibres of what Israel is willing to offer in return for peace with the Arabs. Yes, you can indeed go back to the drawing board and start all over again, but please ensure that the drawing board is not Israeli-supplied and accept that no matter what happens you have no choice but to accept to recognise and guarantee the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians, including their right to independent statehood, if you are serious about finding peace in the Middle East.

Until then, Mr. President, please stop beating around the bush.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Re'i on Saturday, discussed a decision by the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee which decided to impose economic sanctions against Iraq. The decision was based on false accusations that Iraq had violated human rights by using chemical weapons and has been threatening Israel with such weapons, the paper said. The paper noted that the decision came in the wake of a long U.S.-Israeli hostile campaign against the Arabs in general and Iraq in particular, and is clearly designed to employ economic measures in addition to political leverage to impose hegemony on the Arabs. The Arab Nation should be on its guard now since this move could pave the way for a military aggression on Iraq, in which the United States could be the key player, warned the paper. It said that the American Senate had earlier taken a decision in support of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem, and new move came as a complementary act to display all enmity and hostility towards the Arab countries. The series of American actions, the paper noted, should prompt the Arab countries to embark on a serious and collective action, rising to the level of the new challenge and to Washington's open hostility to the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily commented on a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry that war is imminent in the Middle East region in view of Israel's continued expansionist policies. The warning is tantamount to an accusation by Moscow levelled at Washington as being responsible for the dangerous and explosive situation in the region, because of its continued support for Israel's inhuman practices and the U.S.' failure as a superpower to help bring about a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper continued. It said that the Soviet warning reflects Moscow's concern over the situation in the Middle East and its realisation of the urgent need to put an end to Israel's atrocities and an end also to Washington's unlimited support which is translated into bombs and bullets raining on Palestinian women and children. The Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement is a reminder for the Arabs that the United States total bias towards Israel and world Zionism is responsible for the explosive situation, regardless of President Bush's statement that his country was determined to pursue efforts to achieve peace, the paper added. The paper supported Moscow's views with regard to the present situation, and said that the Arabs would no doubt pool all their resources for defending their rights.

Sawt Al Shaab daily criticised the United States for continuing its aid to Israel which is bent on aggression and giving empty promises to the Arab World. The United States does not wish to exercise any pressure on the Jewish state to make it change its position, and continues to issue false statements to deceive the Arab Nation. For this reason, it is in the Arab Nation's interest to internationalise the Middle East problem and to stop counting on empty and deceitful American promises, the paper said. Leaving the Arab-Israeli conflict under Washington's mercy is not going to help the Arabs regain their rights or lands, added the paper. In the absence of any international force to bring about a settlement, the paper concluded, the Arabs have no alternative but to rely totally upon themselves and their intrinsic strength.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fadih Farah

Unemployment high on country's agenda

RESPONDING to the popular pulse, the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday began a general discussion on unemployment. The discussions started with a statement by the Minister of Labour, Qaseem Obeidat who summed up the government's perception of the problem and described the policies and measures taken by the cabinet to tackle unemployment and alleviate its negative consequences. Discussions will continue after the holidays.

Naturally the minister pointed out, and dwelled on, the external factors that contributed to the problem,

because it is more convenient to highlight those factors, that are beyond the authority of the government, while understanding the domestic factors that lend themselves to government intervention and policies.

Obeidat suggested that unemployment has reached 15.6 per cent of the total labour force, or some 100,000 unemployed, from various categories of workers.

The minister also elaborated on the measures taken by the government to fight unemployment and create new jobs. The measures put forward by the minister made sense, but ques-

tions remain: Were these measures really implemented, and if so, did they fail? If the minister knew what should be done, then why nothing or very little was being done?

The minister blamed the influx of too many non-Jordanians into the labour market. I agree, but I recall the ministry's campaign in this respect, which was launched several months ago, did not persist for more than one week and was aborted for unknown reasons. Apparently the task of curbing foreign labour is beyond the means of the Ministry of Labour and should be treated

as a national security matter if results are to be achieved.

So far the speeches presented by the deputies, including that of the Islamic Bloc, did not offer any alternative. The statement of the minister may be more advanced and far reaching than those of the angry deputies who wanted the Government to find a solution but fail to offer one themselves. We will have to wait and see what the others have to say after the holidays, especially the awaited address of the newly formed National Block with the address on unemployment

being its first political act and pronouncement as a bloc, on the floor of Parliament.

One should not be overlooked by all concerned parties: Unemployment cannot be tackled as an isolated problem. It has to be dealt within the framework of the economic correction programme.

It takes new investments to create new jobs. New investments may come about through certainty, stability, and restoration of confidence in order to resume growth. That obviously takes time, but it is important to start. On the other hand, the

The British press and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

By Maria Holt

IT is a well established fact that newspapers tend to reflect the biases of their readers. This raises several questions. First, do people buy particular newspapers because they approve of the general tone of that paper or do the papers respond to what they perceive to be the inclinations of their readership? Second, how much genuine difference can be discerned between the so-called "quality" newspapers in Britain? Finally, to what extent do newspapers influence the larger climate of opinion on a particular issue? It is of interest to examine these questions in the light of the coverage given by the British press to the current phase of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict because the attitudes expressed are likely to affect, in the longer term, the British government's approach to the peace process.

Language, the way reports are worded, is of the utmost importance in shaping a reader's perception of events. In order to investigate this proposition more fully, articles about Israel and the Palestinians in five British national daily newspapers (The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Financial Times, The Guardian and The Independent) covering a period between the beginning of January and the middle of March this year were scrutinised.

This period witnessed little movement towards the realisation of the proposed talks between the Israeli government and representative of the Palestinians over the plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. The Israeli government seemed hopelessly divided on the issue and, by the end of the period under review, had fallen apart completely. At the same time, the Palestinian intifada has continued unabated. Palestinians are still being killed and injured in large numbers. An Israeli tourist bus in Egypt was attacked. The issue of Soviet Jewish immigration into Israel has also affected the peace process.

Two things should be kept in mind. First, British public opinion had traditionally tended to support the Israeli position. Second, the current stalemate can be almost entirely attributed to Israeli intransigence and, in particular, the stubborn position adopted by Prime Minister Shamir.

Let us see, therefore, how the British press has dealt with these issues. One should note the sheer amount of space that has been devoted to coverage of events leading up to the crisis in the Israeli government, in contrast to an occasional footnote or postscript about the distressing and frequently bloody occurrences in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Apportioning blame

An article in The Times of Jan. 2, for example, considers the prospects for peace in the Middle East in 1990. While the U.S. peace plan and the Israeli democratic process are discussed at some length, the intifada is described, erroneously, as having "created a Palestinian identity." The U.S. secretary of state, asserts The Times, in order "to keep the initiative alive," must "prevent the PLO from breaking off the dialogue with the U.S."

Since substantial inequalities clearly exist between the two sides, it seems unfair and unrealistic to apportion blame equally between them as, for instance, in the statement that "progress towards the dialogue is stalled by the incompatible positions of the two sides" (Financial Times, Jan. 3). One should remember that the PLO has signalled its willingness to enter into

talks with Israel while the Israeli government persists in placing obstacles in the way of such talks.

Exasperated by lack of progress, Yasir Arafat announced in January that he would resign as chairman of the PLO if peace efforts failed. According to the Daily Telegraph of Jan. 19, "the threat to recall the Palestine National Council implies the PLO might reverse its declared recognition of Israel's right to exist and encourage its guerrillas to expand their operations beyond military targets in Israel and the occupied territories; it is far from clear how the Daily Telegraph arrives at such an imputation.

On the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration, two strands of thinking have emerged in the British press. One is an appreciation of Israel's "struggle to cope with the swelling volume of Jewish immigration" (Guardian, Jan. 25), while the second worries that "a mounting wave of immigration by Soviet Jews to Israel will upset the political balance in the area to the detriment of the Arab side" (Financial Times, Jan. 25). This, of course, would undermine the so-called "peace process" (described by The Independent of Jan. 25 as "an interesting American phrase that deserves further examination.")

A headline such as "PLO is still attacking civilians, says Israel" (Daily Telegraph, Feb. 1) is bound to provoke, on one level, an emotive response, regardless of the substance of the article. It is unfortunate that certain images, for instance Israel as a democracy in an area of dictatorships and the PLO as a terrorist organisation dedicated to the destruction of Israel, are still firmly in place. Although these exist mainly on the level of stereotype, they are nonetheless very pervasive.

At last a greater readiness to criticise what can only be termed

The Soviet Jews

A protest by Palestinians against the very real threat that Soviet Jews might be settled in the occupied territories was reported in The Independent of Feb. 20 almost entirely from the Israeli point of view. Although comments from Israeli officials, soldiers and media are quoted, only one paragraph is given over to a Palestinian explanation of the action. One is left with the impression that the danger to Jews in the Soviet Union is of infinitely greater urgency than the threat to Palestinian lives or the rapidly disintegrating peace process. The Independent of Feb. 26 reminds us that, in the case of Soviet Jews, "it is human beings we are talking about, individual men, women and children with fears and hopes for the future, not particles of economic and political power. It is worth bearing in mind that the Palestinians, too, are human beings with similar hopes and fears for their future. The article goes on to dismiss the "fury of many Arab observers" as "futile and short-sighted." The Palestinians, in effect, are being urged to be less preoccupied with their own problems and more magnanimous towards other sections of suffering humanity.

By the beginning of March, it was obvious that the peace plan was going nowhere and that the U.S. government was growing increasingly exasperated with Israeli dithering. As The Guardian of March 7 reported, "U.S. officials have made clear that Israeli unwillingness to accept the compromise formula would lead to Israel being blamed for the breakdown of the peace process."

At last a greater readiness to criticise what can only be termed

Israeli intransigence seemed to be emerging. The Financial Times of March 14 commented "since the PLO accepted the principle of peace with Israel, Israel's objection to negotiating with it no longer finds any significant echo elsewhere in the world." The paper added, however, "that Israelis find it difficult to embark on negotiations with a body formerly dedicated to the extinction of their state is understandable." The article neglects to mention that the government of Israel, supported by a large section of its population and possessing considerably more power than the PLO, is equally determined not to allow the Palestinians to even establish a state of their own. The article concludes by regretting the "deleterious effect on Israeli society" that the everlasting war with the Palestinians is having. For Palestinian society, too, it might have added, the effects are far from positive.

The dangers to Israel

In the middle of March, Israel's "national unity government" finally collapsed, prompting much comment in the British press. As usual the main concern was over the possible dangers to Israel. The collapse, as The Times of March 14 noted, "has exposed with brutal clarity Israeli schizophrenia over the future of their Jewish state and control of the Arab territories captured in 1967."

Israelis, said The Times, "deserve more understanding than they are often accorded by the international community." According to the same Times editorial, on the question of East Jerusalem, "it is difficult not to sympathise with the Israeli position. While it is regarded by the Arabs as an 'occupied territory,'

it was formally annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, and it is hard to conceive of Israel surrendering it along with the West Bank. Its future must surely be as the Israeli capital."

According to The Independent of the same day: "For Israel's friends these are depressing times. The spectacle of the kith and kin of the victims of the Holocaust acting as an occupying power and a relatively brutal one at that, is saddening." However, "the PLO leadership has taken considerable risks in formally rejecting terrorism. The intifada has been contained; but the violence which it has spawned can only brutalise all those involved."

The unavoidable conclusion to be drawn from this is that Israel should make peace not to satisfy the legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinians but, rather, to preserve its own integrity and purity of purpose. The ideal of the Israeli state retains a certain nobility for many in the West, whereas the Palestinian struggle is often relegated, consciously or unconsciously, to the inarticulate chaos of Third World agitation. The British press, on the whole, contributes to the reinforcing of this tendency. It is here, perhaps, that we come to the heart of the matter. It seems fair to say that a difference of perception, in civilisational terms, exists between the two sides. The Israelis, in short, are Westerners and rational while the Palestinians are not.

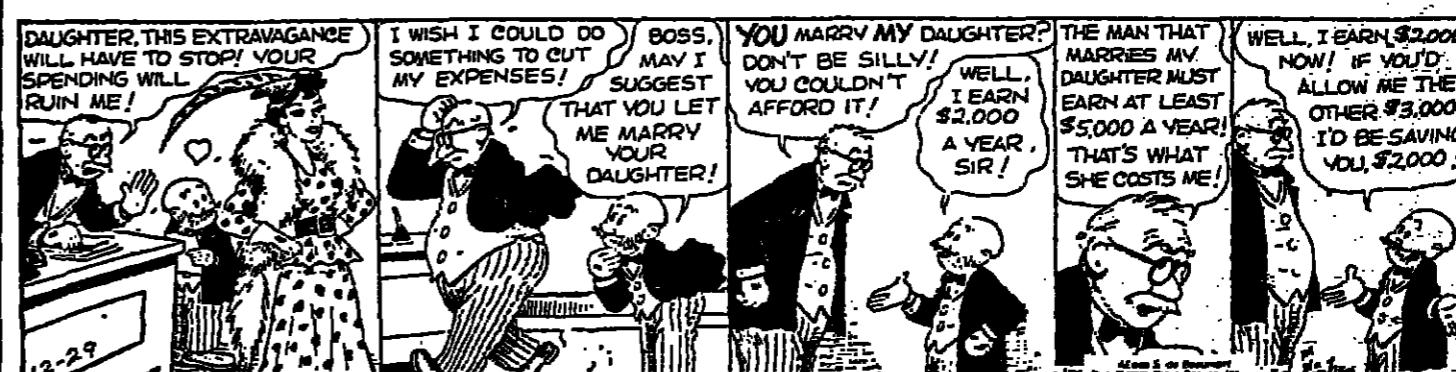
A clear bias

Although a two and a half month review of five newspapers cannot hope to do full justice to the range of opinions expressed and has had to be, of necessity,

Lastly, the PLO, which is universally regarded as the authoritative voice of the Palestinian people, continues to be treated, in general, with suspicion. Its old "terrorist" image, is not allowed to disappear, even though the organisation has not engaged in any activities remotely resembling terrorism for a considerable period. On the contrary, it has unequivocally declared its commitment to a peaceful solution and to negotiations with Israel. It is the Israeli government and not the PLO which keeps placing obstacles in the path of peace. But the British press fails to fully reflect this.

Middle East International

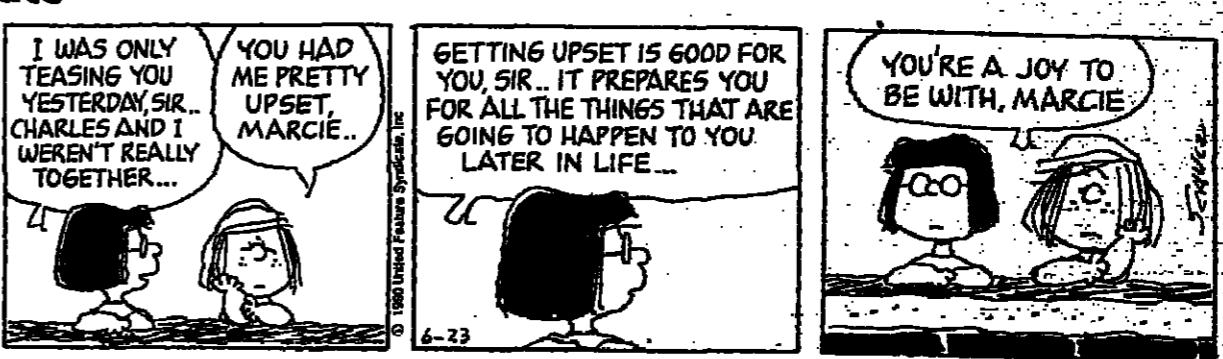
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

Chômage: Quelle solution?



Enfin, on a ouvert le dossier du chômage au parlement. C'était mercredi dernier: les débats ont duré cinq heures et la suite aura lieu après la fête Al-Adha. Bien qu'ils soient en session extraordinaire, un grand nombre de députés ont réanimé un débat avec le gouvernement sur cette question. Pressé par les citoyens, le bloc islamique a considéré la performance du gouvernement dans ce domaine comme un échec total. Le bloc national a critiqué également la politique économique de M. Moudar Badran. Celui-ci a promis en décembre dernier de combattre le chômage par des mesures énergiques. Or, le sentiment général -chez les députés comme chez l'homme de la rue- est que le gouvernement n'a pratiquement rien fait durant les six derniers mois pour résoudre le problème.

Le ministre du travail, quant à lui, a présenté un rapport devant le parlement sur l'action des pouvoirs publics. Celle-ci se résume en une série de mesures administratives, juridiques et fiscales. Par ailleurs, il a estimé le nombre des chômeurs à cent-mille, soit 15,6% des forces actives jordanienes.

Incontestablement, le chômage, avec la vie chère, sont les problèmes qui inquiètent un grand nombre de Jordaniens par les temps qui courent. Curieusement, le chômage a toujours existé dans ce pays, mais dans des proportions supportables. Les autorités s'en débarrassaient en encourageant les Jordaniens à émigrer! La situation économique dans les pays arabes du Golfe permettait cette issue. Depuis six ans, cette solution n'est plus efficace. Ces pays n'ont plus besoin de la main d'œuvre étrangère. Des dizaines de milliers de Jordaniens sont rentrés en Jordanie, en pleine crise économique. La croissance économique est presque nulle et, pire, l'afflux de travailleurs immigrés a continué malgré l'aggravation du chômage. Cet afflux n'avait rien à voir avec les besoins de l'économie jordanienne. La collision entre les patrons et le ministère du travail au cours des années précédentes a abouti à cette situation dramatique. L'ouvrier immigré accepte un salaire nettement inférieur à celui de l'ouvrier jordanien. C'est pourquoi l'une des solutions adoptées consiste à remplacer graduellement la main d'œuvre immigrée par la main d'œuvre jordanienne.

Le marché du travail a revêtu un caractère bizarre ces dernières années. Paradoxalement, nous sommes un pays à la fois exportateur et importateur de main d'œuvre. Il y a environ 300.000 Jordaniens qui travaillent à l'étranger, mais, en même temps, nous avons parmi nous environ 200.000 travailleurs égyptiens, philippins, pakistaniens, syriens, etc...! Comment expliquer cette situation, sinon par l'anarchie qui règne dans le marché du travail?

D'un autre côté, le système d'enseignement a été dissocié pendant longtemps des besoins productifs de l'économie du pays. L'Etat a toujours été le secteur absorbant les diplômés. Or il a atteint le point de saturation ces dernières années. Les secteurs qui peuvent toujours créer des emplois sont l'industrie et l'agriculture. Cela nous amène à constater que le développement de ces deux secteurs est la clé permettant de résoudre le problème du chômage.

Pendant longtemps, les autorités se sont dérobées face à ce problème, qui devient de plus en plus aigu. On a, assurément, perdu beaucoup de temps. Il faut commencer par créer de nouvelles industries et augmenter la surface des terrains exploitables dans le domaine agricole. Jusqu'ici, les solutions gouvernementales sont surtout d'ordre technique ou partielles.

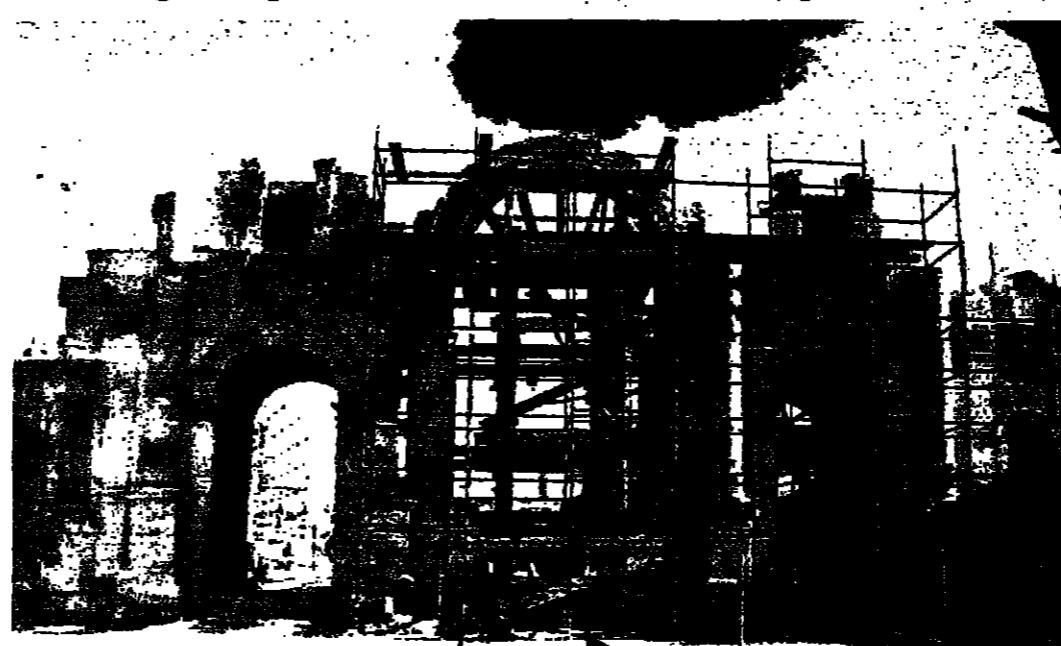
Nous croyons que la solution du problème du chômage commence par la restructuration de l'économie du pays et par la réforme du système d'enseignement. Nous devrions valoriser le travail agricole et encourager les jeunes à exploiter la terre. L'agriculture a été, et est toujours, génératrice de la richesse du pays. Elle crée des emplois. De plus, le développement de ce secteur nous amène à diminuer notre dépendance alimentaire. Bref, la solution radicale est d'élargir la base productive de l'économie jordanienne.

L'inauguration d'un arc d'Hadrien à Jerash

Résurrection d'une porte

L'Institut Français d'Architecture au Proche-Orient (IFAPO) a inauguré jeudi dernier la porte sud de Jerash, restaurée par ses soins. Construite en 129 après J.C. en l'honneur de l'Empereur Hadrien, cette porte avait été en grande partie

détruite, par le temps et par les hommes. Un travail de longue haleine pour les architectes de l'IFAPO, qui ont dû retrouver les morceaux, dispersés parfois à des kilomètres à la ronde, pour les remettre en ordre et leur redonner leur place exacte.



Les échafaudages en moins, voici la porte d'Hadrien telle qu'elle se présente aujourd'hui, comme il y a vingt siècles.

Il porte un nom digne d'un personnage bande dessinée. Ne vous y trompez pas pourtant: l'IFAPO est un institut très sérieux, qui prend son travail à cœur et y connaît comme personne pour reconstruire des monuments vieux de plusieurs siècles avec la plus parfaite exactitude.

Pas facile pourtant de reconstruire un immense puzzle à trois dimensions, dont on n'a pas l'image initiale, dont les pièces sont dispersées dans le désordre le plus absolu et qui sont parfois mélangées avec les pièces d'un autre puzzle, un autre monument en ruines. Il faut faire preuve d'astuce et d'esprit d'enquête. Il faut partir à la recherche des pièces manquantes, des informations et des indices: un vrai travail de détective, intelligent et perspicace.

L'histoire de la mission française à Jerash débute en 1982. C'est la période des vaches grasses pour la Jordanie, le dinar vaut 24F. Le gouvernement décide donc de lancer un grand programme archéologique à Jerash: 2 millions de dinars pour cinq ans.

Le site est divisé en cinq secteurs confiés à douze équipes d'archéologues et architectes étrangers, qui travaillent d'arrache-pied.

Pourtant, après un an seulement, les choses se gâtent brutalement. Les autorités jordanienes constatent que les équipes creusent, cherchent, trouvent des pierres, mais que rien, aucun bâtiment, ne sort de terre. Aucun résultat visible susceptible d'attirer les touristes. Les comparables: ce sont les archéologues; ce qu'il faut, ce sont des architectes.

Par chance, l'équipe française ne compte que deux archéologues parmi ses membres: tous les autres sont justement des architectes... Elle va ainsi devenir la protégée du ministère du tourisme et des antiquités.

«En fait, ce qui nous intéresse, confie Jacques Seigne, le directeur de la mission française, c'est de fouiller et de reconstruire les monuments sur le papier. La phase de reconstruction matérielle, qui s'apparente à un chantier de bâtiments et travaux publics nous intéresse beaucoup moins.

Mais puisque c'était la condition, sine qua non pour continuer à travailler (notamment sur le sanctuaire de Zeus qui me passionne), nous avons accepté de travailler sur la porte sud. On la reconstruit d'abord sur le papier et on verrait bien, après, si l'on dispose de suffisamment d'éléments pour passer à la reconstruction matérielle.»

Voilà l'homme

En 1986 arrive à l'IFAPO un jeune architecte français venu faire son service national dans le cadre de la coopération. Il s'appelle Christophe Wagner, et Jacques Seigne lui confie la tâche de reconstruire le puzzle de l'arc d'Hadrien. La tâche n'est pas facile. Construite au II^e siècle de notre ère, la porte a été détruite au VI^e siècle, sans qu'on sache très bien pourquoi: Séisme? Guerre? Envie de s'en débarrasser? Mystère.

Les choses auraient été

lativement faciles pour Christophe si personne n'avait jamais touché aux restes du monument depuis sa destruction. Mais il en était autrement. Au fil du temps on avait pris des pierres de la porte pour construire des maisons ou des abris à cochons. Dans les années 1930, une équipe américaine s'était intéressée au monument et avait déplacé un certain nombre de blocs. En 1975-80, enfin, le ministère du tourisme et des antiquités de Jordanie avait fait déplacer au ballon-doux des amas de pierres pour construire le rest-house et réaliser les aménagements touristiques de Jerash.

Christophe ne pouvait donc pas s'appuyer sur un simple plan de chute pour retrouver la place originelle des pierres.

Il fallut donc utiliser sa cervelle et partir à la pêche aux informations. On écrivit à l'équipe américaine des années 1930. Bien organisés et très coopératifs, les Américains offrirent leurs cahiers de fouille et fournirent toutes les photos du monument prises à l'époque: tout ce qui restait debout et les blocs de pierre épars dont on pouvait retrouver ainsi le lieu de chute et donc la place dans le monument avant les déplacements ultérieurs. C'est ainsi qu'on s'aperçut que des blocs qui n'y étaient pas quarante ans plus tôt, avaient été remplacés sur le monument dans les années 1970 sans savoir si c'était bien leur véritable place. On s'aperçut même que certaines pierres avaient purement et simplement disparu des abords de la porte, alors qu'elles y étaient encore dans les années 1930. C'est grâce au département des antiquités de Jordanie qu'on réussit finalement à remettre la main sur ces fameux blocs: ils avaient été utilisés pour restaurer le théâtre d'Amman, à 48km!

Les techniques

Coup de chance pour Christophe Wagner, la porte sud avait été construite à la va-vite pour être prête le jour de l'arrivée d'Hadrien. On n'avait pas pris le temps d'aplanir l'assise du monu-

ment, qui présentait donc une différence de 21cm d'une extrémité à l'autre. Pour rattraper cette différence, toute une moitié de la porte est constituée de blocs légèrement plus grands que ceux de l'autre moitié. Il suffit donc de mesurer la taille d'un bloc pour savoir s'il va à droite ou à gauche. De plus, pour aller plus vite, deux équipes travaillaient simultanément. Leurs techniques étaient légèrement différentes et, là encore, il suffit de bien observer les caractéristiques des blocs pour savoir quelle équipe les a travaillées, et donc de quel côté ils doivent aller. La double symétrie du monument (droite-gauche et avant-arrière) facilite également le travail: lorsqu'on est sûr qu'une pierre va à un endroit précis, on sait du même coup que sa soeur jumelle va à l'emplacement correspondant de la deuxième moitié. Ainsi, peu à peu, l'ensemble prend forme, les pièces s'imbriquent les unes avec les autres, et le puzzle se reconstruit.

«Mais nous n'en sommes qu'à la phase intellectuelle de la reconstruction. On ne déplace pas les blocs: on les observe, on les numérote et on les dessine sur un grand plan, où, chacun à sa place, ils constituent l'image de l'arc d'Hadrien.

Ce qui frappe les architectes de l'IFAPO, à ce stade des opérations, c'est le nombre de pierres retrouvées finalement. Aux 25% de pierres qui étaient restées en place, sont venues s'ajouter 48% de pierres retrouvées ici ou là. Au total, donc, ce sont 74% des pierres originelles qui ont été retrouvées alors que dans la plupart des chantiers d'Europe, il faut se contenter d'un taux de 5%. Pour cette raison, il devient tout à fait imaginable de passer à l'étape de la reconstruction matérielle de l'arc. Mais plusieurs problèmes se posent. Il fallait trouver des tailleurs de pierre compétents pour façonner les 26% de blocs manquants, aux reliefs parfois très complexes à réaliser. L'autre problème, c'était l'absence de Christophe qui, son service national terminé, était

naturellement rentré en France. On commence donc les travaux sans lui, sur la base de ses plans, nous sommes en mars 1988. Mais il paraît dommage à Jacques Seigne que ce ne soit pas celui qui avait fait le travail essentiel d'enquête et de reconstruction, qui procède au remontage matériel. Aussi contacta-t-il Christophe en mars 1989, alors que les deux petites ouvertures étaient faites mais qu'il restait à monter la voûte principale. Christophe accepta de venir travailler gratuitement de mars à juillet 1989, pour conclure cet immense travail de restauration.

Remerciements

C'est beaucoup pour remercier Christophe Wagner de ce geste, et de l'énorme travail qu'il a réalisé à Jerash, que l'IFAPO a dû inaugurer officiellement la grande porte sud dans son intégrité retrouvée. C'était aussi l'occasion de montrer qu'on peut arriver en travaillant, beaucoup et bien. «Mais pour cela il faut intéresser les gens à leur travail, insiste Jacques Seigne. Nous avons travaillé avec de bons tailleurs de pierre que nous avons du mal à dénicher et que nous avons formés à ce travail très particulier. Le problème, c'est qu'ils ne sont payés que deux dinars par jour, ce qui ne leur permet pas de vivre et ne correspond pas à l'importance de leur travail. A ce prix-là, ils préfèrent devenir chauffeurs de taxi que continuer ce travail. Nous l'équipe française nous estimons avoir rempli notre contrat et nous nous apprêtons à sortir du projet de Jerash... Il est tant que les autorités jordanienes prennent la relève et sachent utiliser les gens que nous avons formés ici. Pour cela, il faut reconnaître leur compétence et les payer selon leur mérite et leur valeur.»

L'IFAPO a ouvert une porte. Aux suivants de faire en sorte qu'elle ne se reforme pas.

Jean-Marc Bordes

EN BREF

Ambassadeur. Le gouvernement jordanien a nommé un ambassadeur en Libye. Le premier depuis 1984, date de la rupture des relations entre les deux pays, rétablies en 1987. Les relations entre les deux pays avaient été rompus à la suite du succès de l'ambassade de Jordanie à Tripoli. Le roi Hussein a été invité par le colonel Khadafi à se rendre en Libye, mais aucune date n'a encore été avancée pour cette visite, qui serait la première du souverain jordanien depuis août 1979.

Opposition. Le gouvernement jordanien a autorisé pour la première fois une publication de l'opposition à être distribuée dans le pays. «Al-Urdum Al-Jahid» (La Nouvelle Jordanie) est désormais en vente dans les librairies et les kiosques. Son rédacteur en chef, M. Ham Hourani, considère cette autorisation comme un pas positif qui l'encourage à poursuivre la publication depuis Amman au lieu de Nicosie (Chypre).

Pessimisme. Un des principaux dirigeants palestiniens, Abou Iyad, a affirmé s'attendre à une attaque israélienne contre la Jordanie «dans les six mois». Selon lui, cette offensive «intègre dans la stratégie du gouvernement Shamir visant à occuper une partie de la Jordanie afin d'absorber les Palestiniens et d'y résoudre leur problèmes». Abou Iyad a exhorté les Arabes à accorder un soutien militaire à Amman, préconisant la constitution d'un «front commun» composé de l'OLP, de la Jordanie, de la Syrie et de l'Irak.

Aide. L'Arabie Saoudite a accordé une aide de 100 millions de dollars à la Jordanie, ce qui porte le montant total de l'aide des pays arabes à la Jordanie, depuis le début de l'année, à 265 millions de dollars. Cette somme ne constitue que le premier versement de la contribution saoudienne pour 1990, dont le montant final n'a pas été précisé.

Mcque. Un peu plus de 1.500 musulmans soviétiques, désireux d'effectuer cette année le pèlerinage de la Mecque, seront hébergés aux frais du roi Fahd d'Arabie Saoudite. Il s'agit du plus important contingent de musulmans soviétiques venus à la Mecque depuis plusieurs dizaines d'années. En 1989, seules une trentaine de pèlerins de l'URSS étaient venus en Arabie.

Réunification. Ce dimanche entre en vigueur la réunification économique allemande, qui se caractérise essentiellement par l'introduction du Deutsche mark en RDA. Simultanément, tous les contrôles à la frontière entre les deux Etats sont supprimés. Ainsi disparaît la frontière qui était autrefois la plus hermétique du monde. Prochaine étape: la réunification politique, avec des élections pan-allemandes, prévues «visiblement» pour le 9 décembre prochain.

Mandela. Le dirigeant noir sud-africain Nelson Mandela a quitté Washington mercredi après deux jours d'entretiens avec les plus hauts responsables américains. Il a notamment été reçu par le Président Bush et a pu s'adresser au Congrès réuni en session conjointe. Si visus a toutefois suscité une certaine polémique entre Américains après ses récents propos de soutien, prononcés à la télévision, au colonel Khadafi et à Fidel Castro.

Incendies. Une série d'incendies, la plupart d'origine criminelle, ont ravagé plus de 300 maisons dans le sud de la Californie, menaçant les alentours de la métropole de Los Angeles. Dix-sept pompiers ont été blessés à l'est de la ville alors qu'ils lutttaient contre un incendie s'étalant sur une cinquantaine d'hectares. Au nord de Los Angeles, les flammes, qui couvraient une surface de plus de 1.500 hectares, ont brûlé 280 maisons dans les seules villes de Santa-Barbara et Coleta.

Télévision. Les reportages de la cinquième chaîne française (privée) vont être diffusés dans une trentaine de pays d'Afrique et du Proche-Orient, suite à un contrat signé avec Canal France International, banque de programmes diffusés par satellite. La Jordanie, la Syrie, le Maroc, l'Egypte et le Liban sont parmi les premiers pays de l'Union européenne à accorder ce droit.

Droite. Les deux grandes formations de l'opposition conservatrice française ont décidé mardi soir de créer une confédération baptisée Union pour la France (UPF), pour tenter de reprendre l'initiative face au pouvoir socialiste et à une extrême-droite en forte progression. Le Rassemblement pour la République (RPR, néogaulliste) et l'Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF, libérale) ont adopté un système de «primaires» pour désigner un candidat unique à la prochaine élection présidentielle, prévue pour 1995.

Racisme. Deux hommes ont été condamnés mercredi par la justice française à la prison pour perpétration, peine maximale en France, pour une série d'attaques racistes ayant fait un mort et cinq blessés en 1987 dans l'ouest du pays, en Normandie. L'un d'eux a avoué avoir tué un épicier algérien avec une arme à feu. L'autre avait déposé une bombe qui avait fait trois blessés, dans un bar du Petit-Quevilly fréquenté par des Maghrébins.

Cache-cache. Les élus de la mairie de Moscou sont en émoi: un buste de Lénine a disparu mercredi, après un vif débat sur les symboles officiels au Mossovet, la municipalité de Moscou, dont les progressistes ont pris récemment le contrôle. Quelques minutes avant l'ouverture de la session, deux députés avaient emporté le buste de Lénine qui se trouvait au fond de l'estrade, pour le cacher derrière les rideaux. Le buste avait été remis en place pendant l'interruption de séance du matin par des députés communistes, avant d'être à nouveau déplacé par un député qui fit en sorte que Lénine tourne le dos à la salle. Finalement, quand les débats reprirent, en début d'après-midi, le buste était définitivement introuvable...

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Sécurité sociale en Jordanie

Un système à deux vitesses

Le système de Sécurité sociale en Jordanie se caractérise par un statut très différent selon qu'on est fonctionnaire, bénéficiant de la protection de

Dès les années 1940, la Jordanie a voulu adopter des systèmes de protection sociale. Pour les fonctionnaires et les militaires, la retraite est en application depuis déjà des décennies. Mais il aura fallu attendre 1979 pour que la croissance économique et les changements sociaux du pays donnent naissance à une loi assurant la retraite civile, pour les salariés du secteur privé. Plus récemment, des mesures ont été prises afin de renforcer l'étendue de la protection et de la solidarité sociale: c'est l'aide sociale aux familles pauvres, fondée en 1986. C'est aussi la prime de fin de service, offerte par certains établissements privés aux salariés qui partent à la retraite.

Les organismes de sécurité sociale en Jordanie sont au nombre de deux: l'un, financé par l'Etat, est destiné aux fonctionnaires et militaires et porte le nom d'«Assurance sociale». L'autre s'appelle la «Sécurité sociale» et couvre obligatoirement tous les salariés du secteur privé. Il est financé par les personnes, qui versent 8% du salaire brut de l'employé, et par l'em-

ploié lui-même, qui doit verser 5% de son salaire. La somme des cotisations s'élève à 50 millions de dinars par an environ. Un capital qui, placé sur le marché boursier, rapporte gros: >20 millions de dinars, selon M. Ali Issa, le directeur du service de relations publiques de la Sécurité sociale.

À ce jour, la Sécurité sociale (financée par les cotisations) offre une protection dans les cas suivants: accidents du travail, vieillesse, invalidité et décès.

Dans les cas de maladie liée à la profession, tous les soins médicaux sont assurés, et ceci jusqu'à la guérison. La Sécurité sociale paye même 75% du salaire pendant le séjour à l'hôpital ou les congés de maladie, et les frais de transport sont remboursés. En revanche, aucune somme n'est versée à l'assuré en cas de maladie non liée à la profession.

L'âge de la retraite en Jordanie est de 60 ans pour les hommes et de 55 ans pour les femmes. Par contre, il n'y a pas d'âge de retraite à condition qu'il ait cotisé pendant au moins dix ans.

L'Etat, ou qu'on est un simple salarié du secteur privé. Pour ces derniers, l'assurance sociale obligatoire ne couvre que des risques précis et déterminés.

En cas d'invalidité à plus de 30%, et si cette invalidité est due à un accident du travail, l'assuré peut prétendre à une retraite régulière, à condition d'avoir cotisé pendant les douze derniers mois au moins. Mais, si l'invalidité est inférieure à 30%, il ne reçoit qu'une prime ponctuelle.

Pour toucher une pension après un décès, enfin, il faut avoir cotisé pendant 36 mois. Chaque fois qu'une de ces conditions n'est pas remplie, la prime ponctuelle remplace la retraite régulière.

À la sécurité sociale, on est mathématicien. Tout est calculé par ordinateur, peut-être même l'âge de l'assuré! La retraite vieillesse, par exemple, est calculée ainsi: 2% de la moyenne du salaire total pendant les deux dernières années.

Dans les cas d'invalidité ou de décès, la pension représente 50% du salaire de la dernière année de travail.

La prime ponctuelle, enfin, peut varier, selon les cotisations de l'assuré, entre 10 et 15% de la somme des salaires reçus pendant la période active.

On remarquera que l'assuré jordanien n'est couvert que dans les cas d'accident du travail ou de maladie liée à la profession. On notera aussi que les chômeurs n'ont pas droit à la Sécurité sociale puisqu'ils ne cotisent pas, et que les frais d'accouchement et de maternité ne sont pas pris en charge par la Sécurité sociale jordanienne.

Tout Jordanien peut, bien sûr, souscrire parallèlement une assurance complémentaire auprès de compagnies privées, notamment étrangères. Mais on observe que peu le font, faute sans doute, de moyens financiers suffisants.

La loi sur la Sécurité sociale jordanienne est en application depuis déjà dix ans. Au vu de cette expérience plutôt réussie, la direction générale de cet organisme envisage actuellement d'améliorer le système et de faire modifier certaines lois. Lesquelles? C'est encore un secret bien gardé...

Les organismes de Sécurité sociale ont fait des efforts, mais il faut reconnaître qu'il en reste encore beaucoup à faire.

Osama Al-Qudah

PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANÇAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

Impressions marines

Ave Egeria,

J'ai rêvé cette nuit, et je suis encore sous le charme de ce songe qui vient de loin, dont ma vie est pétée.

J'ai cinq ans. Avec grand-mère et papa nous arrivons, la nuit, à l'hôpital italien de Karak. Il n'y a pas de lumière électrique. Les lampes à pétrole sont allumées et le poêle aussi. L'odeur du pétrole qui brûle me suivra toute la vie, me donnera toujours une grande émotion. La nuit, le vent se déchaîne avec violence et les volets en métal gémissent et tapent contre les châssis des fenêtres; les draps du lit sont en grosse toile blanche, le contact rétine contre la peau est curieux. Je bouge les jambes et les pieds pour éveiller à chaque mouvement cette sensation. Plus bas, autour de l'abattoir, hyène et chacal rient et hurlent. Je suis fascinée. Mon cœur bat rapidement. Des sueurs froides me mouillent le visage et les mains. J'ai la bouche sèche. A l'improviste la voix de Nonna, ma grand-mère, qui me parle, ou qui se parle toute seule: «Ce chacal et cette hyène, à intervalles de trois temps, forment des accords en Do majeur. Etrange le contraste avec le rire en mélange de cette autre bête». Je connaît ses élucubrations de grand-mère. Tous les bruits, toutes les voix, jusqu'au plus petit troufroutement sont musique pour elle. Elle les traduit en notes, à longueur de journée. Do, Dooododo, Sol, La, Fa-dièse, Mi, Mi, Mi... Je connais hyène et chacal, mais je n'ai jamais entendu un pareil concert. D'un coup, j'imagine ces fauves avec une sorte de faite de notes. De notes jaunes, vertes, bleues, phosphorescentes; telles un essaim d'abeilles lumineuses. Je n'ai plus peur, il me reste seulement la fascination de cette nuit sorcière.

Le lendemain, une longue journée sur piste. Le ciel est plein de gros nuages. Très gros et très blancs, gonflés. Etendus avec les jambes sur celles de papa et la tête sur celle de Nonna, je découvre un univers d'images dans ce ciel plein de mouvement.

L'étape finale du voyage est Aqaba: des palmiers, des maisonsnettes à la blancheur aveuglante, de l'eau transparente et pleine de poissons. Toutes les couleurs de l'arc en ciel. Radwan, le pêcheur, me fait cadeau de coquillages, me montre les dauphins, me fait traverser le golfe en barque et là, en face d'Aqaba, où il n'y a rien qu'une immense plage de sable fin, descendant doucement par degrés dans la mer, il m'apprend à nager. Il porte des sirwals blancs qui flottent dans l'eau.

Souvenirs faits d'impressions-clairs, tâches de couleurs, haloïne d'odeurs, vague éphémère de saveurs. L'eau salée, la chair grasse et jolies des huîtres entre langue et palais, bottes de feuilles de palmier qui brûlent comme des torches, portées sur l'épaule par les pêcheurs, pour illuminer le récif de corail, là où l'eau rencontre la plage. On pose un pied chassé sur le homard énorme et on le prends avec la main pour le jeter dans un grand sac. Je n'ai pas suffisamment de force pour contre-carrer le coup dégueu du crustace qui risque à chaque coup de m'envoyer m'écorcher les fesses sur le corail du fond. Mais Radwan est là et me tient debout en me soulevant par un bras. Ses yeux rient, il me trouve courageuse. Les petites tortues de mer à peine sorties de l'œuf qui frénétiquement luttent en riant avec leurs minuscules pattes pour gagner l'eau, leurs œufs semblables à des balles de ping-pong. Et puis la masse des étoiles qui me donnent l'infinie nostalgie des espaces galactiques, éveillant la mémoire inconsciente d'un vécu très lointain. La pique des aiguilles des oursins, soignée avec du sable chaud ou une cigarette approchée de la peau. Les jeux sur la plage avec les pagures. Et la transparence bleue et verte de l'eau: cette eau dans laquelle on me fait voir, à travers un bidon à fond de verre, les paysages, sous-marin: éponges, corail, coquillages, poissons, oursins, un monde fabuleux qui représentera dans ma vie future, le merveilleux. L'envie me prend de me laisser glisser dans ce monde marin et devenir créature aquatique, algue, pour ondoyer au rythme sinuous du courant, m'évanouir et me dissoudre un peu dans chacune des créatures qui vivent dans ces abîmes lumineux et saveureux.

Combien de voyages à Aqaba sont résumés dans ce songe? Un seul? Plusieurs? Pour moi il n'y a qu'à l'avant-guerre et l'après-guerre. Le merveilleux interrompu par la laideur des bombardements, de la peur, de la faim. La faim? Pas vraiment, on mangeait des châtaignes, mais une faim plus grande de choses, de partis d'harmonie. La faim de ce qui est beau, qui nous est donné avec la vie et qu'on ne sait pas toujours apprécier et garder. Je te parlerai encore d'Aqaba, la prochaine fois.

Vale, Egeria.

Bédouins

La simplicité comme règle de vie

Selon la définition donnée par des savants arabes tels que Al-Rasi ou Al-Karkachindi les Bédouins sont les Arabes qui s'installent dans le désert. Ils se distinguent ainsi des Arabes, qui vivent dans les villes.

Pour le savant Ibn Khaldoun, fondateur de la sociologie arabe, l'existence des Bédouins est antérieure à l'apparition des villes, car l'urbanisme est la manifestation de l'opulence et de la prospérité.

Un deuxième aspect qui différencie les Bédouins des autres Kabyles arabes est leur mode de vie. Les Bédouins sont classés en trois catégories:

1- Ceux qui vivent de l'élevage des chameaux,

2- Ceux qui vivent de l'élevage des brebis et des vaches,

3- Ceux qui exercent l'agriculture simple et primitive que permet la nature du désert, là où il y a un peu de pluie et beaucoup de sable, ce qui explique l'absence d'une agriculture stable.

Un aspect essentiel de la vie des Bédouins est leur déplacement continu, qui dépend en grande partie du choix de l'emplacement vital: là où il y a de l'eau, de l'herbage et de la sécurité.

L'animal symbole du Bédouin est le chameau, avec son endurance particulière. On l'appelle même le vaisseau du désert.

Chaque Kabyle (tribu) a son territoire spécifique qui s'appelle «Dirch» c'est à dire la patrie. Bien que le Bédouin considère tous les pays arabes comme sa patrie, indépendamment des frontières politiques qui séparent les états, il a une grande nostalgie pour sa «Dirch», quand il en est éloigné.

Le kabyle n'abandonne son territoire spécifique que par obligation. Le Bédouin est loyal envers sa tribu, il est honoré par cette appartenance, il retient par cœur le nom de ses vieux ancêtres.

Les liens du sang sont la base

du tribalisme kabyle. C'est pour cette raison que les Bédouins se marient souvent dans leur propre famille: le mariage entre cousins est un phénomène fréquent. De même les Bédouins pensent à vendre leurs propriétés entre eux, avant de penser à les vendre à des étrangers.

La société bédouine résiste longtemps aux modifications culturelles, ce qui explique sa tendance à glorifier le passé, son respect de la tradition, des ancêtres, et sa peur de l'inconnu.

Ironie: l'aspect le plus audacieux du programme se trouve dissimulé dans la plus classique des représentations: le troisième acte de Coppelia. De nos jours, la plupart des productions de ce ballet comique se réfèrent aux indications scéniques empruntées à Marius Petipa, qui les avait lui-même empruntées à Arthur Saint-Leon, le premier chorégraphe de Coppelia. Grâce à Petipa, un grand nombre de créations de cette production légendaire (Paris, 1870) ont été retrouvées. Par contre, celles concernant le troisième acte, dont seul le livret nous reste, ont complètement disparu, laissant le champ libre au chorégraphe moderne. L'Anglais Ronald Hynd, enchanté à 14 ans par la musique de Delibes et converti au ballet par une représentation de Coppelia, se propose de prendre ce troisième acte à bras le corps et de le faire à sa manière.

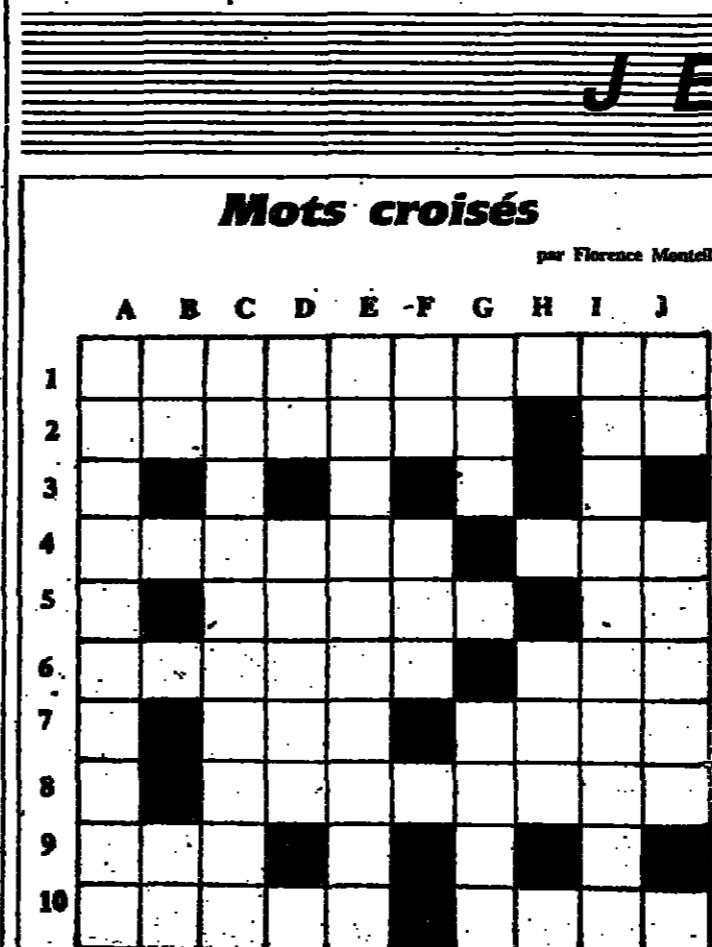
Une pièce révélée (Les Sylphides), un drame tragique (La Pavane du Maure) et l'allégorie d'une féerie aux débouts mattendus (Coppelia): trois soirées prometteuses.

Sami Kamal

DIVERS

Ballets

Ballets. Trois spectacles présentés par The English National Ballet sous le patronage de la Reine Nour. Au programme: «Les Sylphides», «La Pavane du Maure», et «Coppelia». Voir FOCUS. Centre Culturel Royal, les jeudi 5, vendredi 6 et samedi 7 juillet à 20h, avec une matinée le samedi à 15h. Tickets en vente au CCR et au British Council: 10 dinars pour les soirées et 4 dinars pour la matinée.



Horizontalement:
1: apprécié par le plus grand nombre. 2: petits d'ours; pronom personnel. 4: toujours pas; c'est le premier qui court. 5: peuple les forêts; en tenue d'Adam. 6: coquilles; compté en nombre d'années. 7: de bonne heure; source d'énergie. 8: privés de leur liberté; lion romain. 10: plantes latévitatives; érodés.

Verticalement:
A: virtuels. B: alternatif; marque le féminin. C: prudence ou grand soin. D: coutumes; constellations. E: périodes; lentes. G: égal en grec; presque. H: le premier département français. I: servira au point d'étoffer. J: pronom personnel; sont provoqués par les grosses chaleurs.

(Solution de la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N° 16:

Horizontalement:
1: obligation. 2: routes. 3: mi; in; père. 4: étendre; er. 5: membran. 6: tresser. 7: R; as; veston. 8: traire. 9: iron. 10: rizette; et.

Verticalement:
A: ornement. B: boîte. C: la cui. D: itinéraire. E: gendre. F: R; as; tête. G: mère. H: mère, ns.

Solution du problème N° 16:

B. 10-6; N. 19-28; B. 6-8; N. 1-10; B. 26-22; N. 22-27; B. 8-12; N. 25-18; B. 12-15; N. 4-11; B. 15-24.

FOCUS

Ballet au CCR

Une petite histoire de la danse

The English National Ballet nous invite cette fin de semaine - les 5, 6 et 7 juillet au Centre Culturel Royal - à un spectacle qui, à bien y regarder, fait l'effet d'un abrégé de l'histoire du ballet et de la danse moderne. Les trois pièces au programme - Coppelia (1870), Les Sylphides (1909) et La Pavane du Maure (1949) - marquent selon les cas l'apogée d'un style ou la naissance d'un vocabulaire gestuel novateur.

Pour les non-initiés, la nouvelle est donc plutôt bonne. La compagnie présentera Les Sylphides et La Pavane du Maure comme un travail de reconstitution historique de l'original; la troisième pièce, Coppelia, réinterprétée par Ronald Hynd, s'inspire de l'œuvre de Marius Petipa, François installé en Russie, qui au dernier quart du XIX^e siècle a développé la technique de l'école russe classique. C'est Petipa qui a créé la féerie de Tchaïkovski. Le lac des cygnes. A travers Coppelia, on aura un échantillon de ses méthodes.

Les Sylphides - mises en scène par Dame Alicia Markova - est la création de Michel Fokine, un Russe, qui n'appréciait pas les règles et les formules de Petipa et qui devint le plus grand novateur du XX^e siècle. The English National Ballet incarnera alors ce qu'en effet Michel Fokine appelaient des principes nouveaux. Il insista en effet en 1904 pour que la danse se libère des recettes de gestes et de postures toutes faites, bonne dans tous les contextes. Il voulait que le danseur se livre à un traitement individuel de la pièce. Ses idées portèrent ses fruits lorsqu'il créa les Sylphides, point culminant des Ballets Russes de Diaghilev, le ballet le plus expérimental de la première moitié du siècle.

Autre aspect de cet effort de libération, le choix des musiques jouera un rôle aussi fondamental que le geste. Fokine utilisera la musique de manière insolite en s'inspirant de morceaux écrits pour les salles de concert. «Une suite de cinq morceaux de Chopin - un prélude, une nocturne, deux mazurkas et une valse - auront une portée dépassant le rythme et la décoration mélodique. Éléments à part entière du ballet, elles engageront le danseur dans une action réciproque et individualiste.

Créé au milieu du siècle, La Pavane du Maure (The Moor's Pavane) de Jose Limon, Américain, reflète les effets de cette libération initiale. Elève et disciple de Doris Humphrey, pionnière de la danse moderne aux Etats-Unis, il est, comme Fokine, un formaliste rigoureux qui veut laisser à l'artiste un maximum d'expression individuelle. La Pavane sera un hybride de ballet et de danse moderne. S'inspirant d'un thème tiré de l'histoire d'Othello, Limon explore les possibilités offertes par la plasticité du corps pour exprimer l'effet destructeur d'une passion grandissante. Construite dans le cadre d'une pavane baroque (musique Henry Purcell), cette danse décrète l'épreuve que subit l'âme oscillante d'un mari saisi de jalouse. Elle est construite et réalisée pour The English National Ballet par Jennifer Scanlon.

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Sami Kamal

CINEMA

Dimanche

«Treasure of Sierra Madre», de John Huston, avec Humphrey Bogart et le père de John Huston, Walter Huston (1948). Western basé sur la recherche d'une mine d'or par trois personnages dont on découvre la psychologie au fur et à mesure que le trésor se rapproche. L'histoire se passe au Mexique. Le film reçut l'Oscar de la meilleure réalisation et de la meilleure interprétation pour Walter Huston.

Centre américain, dimanche

Pressure mounts on OPEC quota-busters

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, joining a growing assault on Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota-busters, said Saturday the organisation must take a tougher stand when it meets next month.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has not been firm enough in the past with over-producers, especially the United Arab Emirates, he told Reuters in an interview.

"A country cannot be a member of an organisation and act against it. The members have not reacted seriously enough to the problem yet," he said.

"Any decision without discipline means nothing."

Aqazadeh accused Kuwait of over-producing as well but said prices could be restored to OPEC's \$18 per barrel reference.

Overproduction was tamed at the organisation's July 25 meeting in Geneva.

"I am not prepared to discuss any other issue unless we reach agreement on this," he added.

"When one country over-produces, every other member suffers."

Iranian oil industry sources said Tehran was privately threatening to open the taps and produce 3.5 or 3.6 million barrels per day unless the OPEC meeting introduced discipline among the 13 member states. Its current OPEC quota is 3.14 bpd.

Aqazadeh said Iran would not accept any change in its share of the total OPEC quota. He estimated OPEC output in June at 13.5 million bpd, compared with a target of 22.1 million bpd.

World markets are glutted with crude oil. Prices have fallen a third this year to between \$3.4 below the OPEC target — prompting a rare burst of plain speaking as other members put public pressure on the UAE and Kuwait, which have large reserves, to curb production.

Iran and Iraq have both joined the campaign. OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria has just visited the Gulf producers, preaching the need for production restraint.

Aqazadeh told Reuters the

UAE was overproducing on its quota by about a million bpd and Iran lost \$1 billion for every dollar the spot crude price fell.

He said the Iranian government was not pressuring him to increase oil revenues because of the earthquake which killed 40,000 Iranians last week.

Iran was already strapped for cash after its 1980-88 war with Iraq. The earthquake flattened large areas on northwestern Iran and will set reconstruction work back still further.

Although Iran and Iraq have signed no peace after their eight-year war, the minister said their heads of state would have no problems participating in a proposed OPEC summit. But other members might be unwilling to attend, he said, declining to name them.

Oil industry sources said Iran was aiming its most pointed criticism at the UAE because it believed the appointment of a new oil minister in Kuwait, Rashid Salem Al Ameri, meant that country would be more concerned to support the OPEC price.

Aqazadeh said OPEC faced two choices. It either reduced the overall production ceiling so much that over-production did not affect prices, or it strictly enforced production quotas.

"The UAE has been repeatedly accused of being the cause of the sufferings in the oil market. A charge we reject," Oteiba said. "I favour the second choice."

Naser delivers King's message

Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Hisham Naser delivered a message from King Fahd to the leader of the United Arab Emirates on means of stopping a slide in world oil prices, the Associated Press adds from Abu Dhabi.

The official Emirates News Agency WAM said the message was delivered to the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, and the meeting was attended by UAE Oil Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba.

"The message dealt with the conditions of the oil market and means of stabilising it within the framework of consultations and coordination between King Fahd and Sheikh Zayed for the sake of

the common interest," the agency added.

OPEC President Sadek Boussena was in Saudi Arabia at the end of a tour of OPEC member states of the Gulf that included talks in Kuwait and UAE. No details emerged on their discussions but Naser is visiting both countries.

An oil industry source in Abu Dhabi told the Associated Press that Naser seeks "conciliation on oil production quotas," and that it was in preparation for OPEC's next ministerial meeting scheduled for July 25.

Oteiba told reporters in Abu Dhabi at a joint press conference with Boussena earlier this week that the country had abided by a pledge in May to cut output by 200,000 barrel per day from 2.1 million barrel per day. The OPEC quota that the UAE rejects is 1.095 million barrels per day.

"The UAE will not accept pressures and threats from anybody," Oteiba said, but also reiterated his country's support to the OPEC resolutions despite his disappointment over the cartel's failure to act on the demand for a higher production quota.

"The UAE has been repeatedly accused of being the cause of the sufferings in the oil market. A charge we reject," Oteiba said.

Egypt's oil prices unchanged

Non-OPEC Egypt will keep its crude oil prices unchanged as of July 1, an official of the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corp. (EGPC) said.

The decision leaves the benchmark Suez blend at \$12 a barrel. The Prime Zeit and Ras Bahar grades will continue to sell at \$12.50 a barrel.

Prices for the cheaper grades of Belayin, Ras Badran and Ras Gharib will remain unchanged at \$11.15, \$10.00 and \$9.70 a barrel respectively.

Egypt, which reviews its export prices twice a month in accordance with market trends, last changed prices for the second half of June when they were cut by one dirh a barrel for all grades.

Frans Steinkuehler, chairman of the IG Metall union, the largest in the Western world, predicted strikes and rising unemployment as the former Communist state wrested with the changeover to a competitive Western-style economy.

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W. German offence expected to prevail

MILAN, Italy (AP) — West Germany's high-speed offence meets Czechoslovakia's solid defence in Sunday's World Cup quarterfinal in Milan — and the attackers are expected to prevail.

Coaches Franz Beckenbauer and Josef Venglos did not announce full lineups in advance but their tactics are very clear.

"I'll field a stronger midfield than against Holland, to better support our attacks. I plan an offensive-minded team, similar to the one which did extremely well in first-round matches," said Beckenbauer.

Venglos conceded that West Germany is the favourite and likely to take the initiative and press throughout the match.

"German forwards are very strong but we are not afraid. We will try to stop their offence with a crowded midfield and strike back with fast counterattacks. We are bidding for an upset win," Venglos said.

In three first-round matches against Yugoslavia, the United Arab Emirates and Colombia, West Germany scored 10 goals. It added two in last Sunday's second-round victory over the Netherlands for a 12-4 goal differential.

'Argentina unlikely to retain World Cup'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Osvaldo "Ossie" Ardiles, who helped Argentina to a soccer World Cup victory in 1986, does not think his country will make it to the final this year.

"From what we have seen so far I think it is very unlikely that Argentina will win this time," Ardiles was quoted as saying in an interview with the English-language Cyprus Weekly newspaper.

Ardiles, who was vacationing in Cyprus, told the newspaper he thought the July 8 final in Rome would be between Italy and West Germany.

"I don't think you can compare the two," he answered when asked to compare this year's Argentine team to the one he played with to win the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"Argentina are a one man band this time, really. Everything depends on (Diego) Maradona. It all goes through him. I thought they were very lucky to win against Brazil."

England meets Cameroon in the second round.

England's cautious approach won scant praise for the country that invented the game. Colourless draws with Ireland and the Netherlands were followed by meager 1-0 victories over Egypt and Belgium. The two goals from four matches underlines England's less than potent attack.

Cameroon is a team that does not fit a stereotyped image. Many of its players have spent years abroad in professional leagues in France and elsewhere. The team's Russian coach, Valery Nepomnyashchik, has imposed some order on a group of individualists with a tendency to play rough.

Like all the other teams that have encountered Cameroon in this competition, England is fac-

Beckenbauer expects England in semifinals

ERBA, Italy (R) — Franz Beckenbauer reckons England will reach the World Cup semifinals but says Italy against West Germany would make a dream final.

Victory over Czechoslovakia in Milan Sunday would carry West Germany to a semifinal against England or Cameroon, though Beckenbauer is making no premature assumption of his team's progress.

"I expect England in the semifinals because Cameroon have four players who can't play because of (second) yellow cards," he said at the squad's base near Lake Como Friday.

"A country like Cameroon can't counter-balance that, so I believe England will reach the semifinals."

Beckenbauer said prospects for an Italy-West Germany final — a repeat of 1982 when Italy won in Spain — were quite good.

"If that came about we would have a dream final, but things have not got that far yet," he told

a news conference.

Beckenbauer said his team would not underestimate quarter-final opponents Czechoslovakia.

"We have the motivation. We want to get to the semifinals. We played very well against the Netherlands, who are one of the strongest teams in the world," he said, looking back to last Sunday's 2-1 win over the European champions in the second round.

"The Czechs won't be underestimated. We must play like we did against Yugoslavia — put them under pressure, keep them occupied and not give them space."

Beckenbauer said the first game — a 4-1 win over Yugoslavia — had been very important, enabling his side to steam on in the tournament.

He kept reporters guessing about his line-up, saying that despite its defensive look the team which beat the Dutch had played very attacking football.

When the competition started, he was considered only as a useful second half substitute.

But after scoring three of Italy's six goals so far he has catapulted to popularity and earned himself a fixed place in the team.

Despite the expulsion of Sabanadzovic, Yugoslavia had the better of play in regulation time.

Regular striker Gianluca Vialli, who has lost his place in the team because of injury and bad form, was third with 10.5 per cent.

Striker Salvatore Schillaci, whose fairytale World Cup turned him into a national hero, has toppled defender Franco Baresi as Italy's most popular player.

Schillaci overtook sweeper Baresi in a running World Cup popularity poll this week, the survey organisers said.

He took 12.1 per cent of the 22 million votes cast, just ahead of Baresi with 11.9.

Regular striker Gianluca Vialli, who has lost his place in the team because of injury and bad form, was third with 10.5 per cent.

Striker Salvatore Schillaci, a second division

player little over a year ago, has himself described his World Cup

as magical.

When the competition started,

he was considered only as a useful

second half substitute.

But the luck which has been

with Argentina all through their

series of disappointing performances in the tournament did not

desert them as they moved into a

semifinal in Naples with either

Italy or Ireland Tuesday.

Maradona's penalty miss can-

celled out a spot kick sent

crashing against the bar by

Yugoslav playmaker Dragan Stojkovic.

But Argentina goalkeeper Se-

gio Goycochea made himself the

hero by saving Yugoslavia's last

two penalties from Dragoljub

Bronovic and Faruk Hadzibegic

to take the South Americans

through to breaking the deadlock.

First he crashed a volley over

the crossbar in the 12th minute,

then he flicked a header inches

wide in the 27th minute.

He also forced a good save

from Goycochea with the

Argentine defence in disarray in

the final minute of the half.

Robert Prosinecki also came

close with an angled shot that

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Argentina's best chance came

in the fourth minute when

Claudio Caniggia caused panic in

the Yugoslav defence but Bur-

ruachaga shot wildly.

Maradona's threat was muted

throughout and his teammates

struggled on attack.

Argentines claw their way into semifinals

low card for refusing to move back at a free kick.

Argentina had the ball in the Yugoslav net in the final minute of extra time, but Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger disallowed the goal, apparently ruling that Jorge Burruchaga handled the ball.

Television replays of the incident were inconclusive.

The Argentines surrounded the referee in protest and Burruchaga pushed the referee in the chest, but escaped punishment.

Both benches cleared and there was a brief pushing match before order was restored.

Despite the expulsion of Sabanadzovic, Yugoslavia had the better of play in regulation time.

Sweeper Davor Jovic, who already has scored two goals in the tournament, three times came close to breaking the deadlock.

First he crashed a volley over

the crossbar in the 12th minute, then he flicked a header inches wide in the 27th minute.

He also forced a good save from Goycochea with the Argentine defence in disarray in the final minute of the half.

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Argentina's best chance came in the fourth minute when Claudio Caniggia caused panic in the Yugoslav defence but Burruchaga shot wildly.

Maradona's threat was muted throughout and his teammates struggled on attack.

England hopes for free-kicks

SALERNO, Italy (R) — England, bristling with confidence and determination, hope to capitalise on their free-kick expertise in Sunday's World Cup quarterfinal clash with Cameroon in Naples.

Having scored from dead ball routines against Egypt and Belgium in their last two matches, England will try and make the most of any such chance when

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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DON'T BLOW YOUR COVER!
Both vulnerable with 60 on score.
West deals.

NORTH
A 10 9 8 3
6 5
Q 2
J 10 7 6

WEST EAST
K J 2 4 7 6 4
K 7 9 3 9 8 2
A 5 0 9 8 3
A Q 9 8 5 4 K 2

SOUTH
Q 5
A 10 4 3
K 10 7 6 4
3

The bidding:
West North East South
1 4 Pass 2 0
3 4 Pass Pass 3 0
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
Rubber bridge is its most interesting when one side, or both, possess a part-score. You must be prepared to take risks to prevent the opponents from completing their rubber, or game.

Had there been no part-score, North's overall would have been considered, at best, dubious. Under the given circumstances, however, it was incumbent on North to enter the fray and it resulted in North-South buying the contract at a feasible level.

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3) BEVERLY HILLS At 10:30 p.m.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUN Tel: 675571

Silvester Stallone in TANGO & CASH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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Silvester Stallone in TANGO & CASH

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

Lithuania awaits end of Kremlin sanctions after freeze vote

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — The Kremlin is expected to lift crippling economic sanctions, including a fuel embargo, against Lithuania this weekend, after the Soviet republic's decision to freeze its independence declaration.

"We've kept our side of the bargain with Moscow," government spokesman Ceslovas Yuršėnas said. "All Moscow needs to do now is turn the tap and the oil will start flowing again."

"We expect this to happen now within the next 36 hours," he said.

The Lithuanian parliament surrendered Friday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's condition of time — the freezing of its March 11 independence declaration.

Parliament's concession handed Gorbachev a big victory before Monday's opening of a crucial

special congress of the Soviet Communist Party, where conservative critics are expected to blast his reformist policies.

Gorbachev, who is also party leader, had consistently called on Vilnius to suspend its declaration to give him room for manoeuvre with his critics.

But it had become increasingly clear this week that both sides were eager for an end to the deadlock, with Lithuanian leaders shuttling to Moscow and Gorbachev suddenly using the once-banned word "negotiations" to describe future talks.

"I suppose you could see our decision as a concession, but sometimes concessions are necessary on both sides. Perhaps it has also helped Gorbachev along as well," Yuršėnas said.

He added that he thought negotiations could begin soon after the party congress, expected

to last 10 days.

The Lithuanian Supreme Council, or parliament, declared a 100-day moratorium from the start of any talks but said this could be broken off at any time.

On the streets of the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, there was only light traffic Saturday morning. Three months of Kremlin fuel embargo have taken most cars off the road.

But a thriving black market has emerged, with tacit official approval. Thousands of gallons (litres) of petrol are smuggled in from the neighbouring Republic of Byelorussia to keep some taxis, private cars and 70 per cent of public transport working.

Supplies in the shops, better kept and more Western in appearance than the austere stores of Moscow, are still better than in the Soviet capital.

Poorer Byelorussians are more

than willing to trade their petrol for the relative abundance here of clothes, food and consumer goods.

There was no sign of emotion over the parliamentary declaration in the narrow cobble streets of the old town. For weeks it had been only a matter of time before Vilnius would be forced to back down.

But while the embargo has left few marks on the city, industry and agriculture have suffered badly, with hundreds of factories closed and farms losing machinery vital to the harvest. Residents have been without hot water for four weeks.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, who dropped his opposition to a moratorium and backed a compromise Friday, said Gorbachev had pledged to end his embargo if the parliament voted to freeze the declaration.

U.S. shuttle fleet grounded

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — The entire city was blacked out late Friday but it was not clear whether this was as a result of the attack.

An Electricity Corporation official said he lost radio contact with the plant Thursday afternoon. It provides half of the capital's electricity. The corporation has only six days of fuel oil for its gas turbine plant if the hydro plant stopped, he said.

Firing also broke out at the nearby towns of Harbel and Mount Barclay on the fringe of the giant Firestone rubber plantation. The army checkpoint at Mount Barclay was empty and fuel tanks at Harbel were on fire.

The leak resembled one that grounded the space shuttle Columbia and the \$148-million astro observatory on May 29. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which also has a third shuttle, Discovery, promptly announced there would be no shuttle flights until further notice.

William B. Lenoir, NASA's spaceflight chief, said a planned July 15 flight of Atlantis on a secret military mission had been postponed indefinitely.

"There is no question that we will not fly until we understand the problem and have it fixed," Lenoir, a former astronaut, told a news conference here.

The development plunged the space programme into further disarray.

A Senate committee Friday opened hearings into how the \$2.5 billion Hubble space telescope came to be launched in April containing a flawed mirror that will delay for years, and perhaps indefinitely, 40 per cent of its experiments.

The Hubble, designed to probe the secrets of the universe, has not operated properly since shuttle astronauts left it in orbit. In addition to the mirror problem, it wobbles and turns off as it passes in and out of sunlight.

It was unclear Friday whether the grounding of the shuttle fleet would delay a shuttle mission scheduled for 1993 to repair the Hubble.

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